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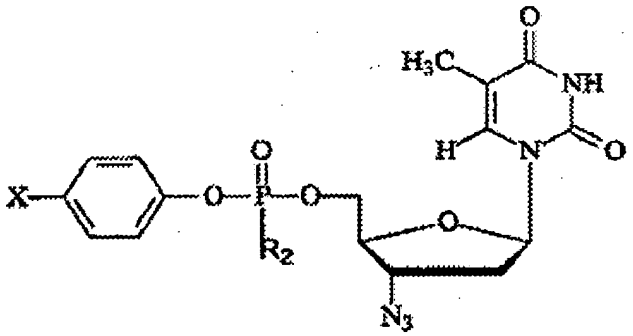
AMDT. FILED 06.30.05

CET (07.06.05)

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) A compound of the formula:



wherein X is an electron withdrawing group, with the proviso that X is not NO_2 or F; and R_2 is an amino acid residue;

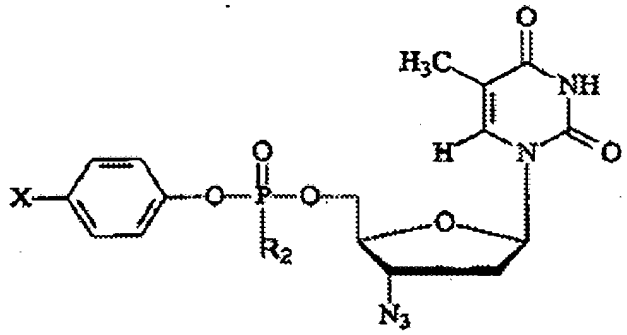
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

22. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 21, wherein X is selected from Br, Cl, and I.

23. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 21, wherein R_2 is $-NHCH(CH_3)COOCH_3$.

24. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 23, wherein X is selected from Br, Cl, and I.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting virus replication in a cell infected with a virus, the method comprising administering to the infected cell a virus replication inhibiting amount of a compound of the formula:



wherein X is an electron withdrawing group, with the proviso that X is not NO_2 or F; and R_2 is an amino acid residue;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein X is selected from Br, Cl, and I.

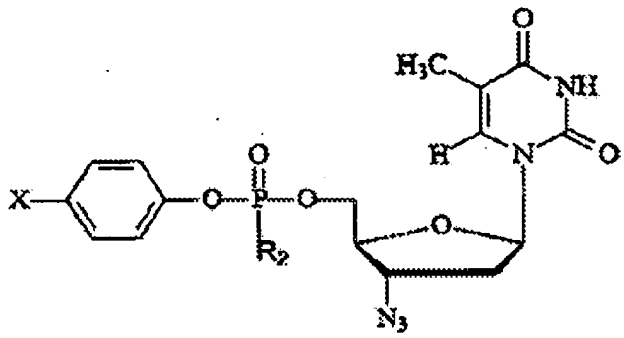
27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein R_2 is -$NHCH(CH_3)COOCH_3$.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein X is selected from Br, Cl, and I.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[39]]25, wherein the virus is HIV.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the virus is HIV.

31. (Previously Presented) A composition useful for inhibiting virus replication in a cell infected with virus, the composition comprising an amount effective for inhibiting virus replication in the infected cell of a compound of the formula:



wherein X is an electron withdrawing group, with the proviso that X is not NO_2 or F; and R_2 is an amino acid residue;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or diluent.

32. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 31, wherein X is selected from Br, Cl, and I.

33. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 31, wherein R_2 is -$NHCH(CH_3)COOCH_3$.

34. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 33, wherein X is selected from Br, Cl, and I.

35. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 31, wherein the virus is HIV.

36. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 33, wherein the virus is HIV.